

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 884

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Tanya Jan Gardner on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Tanya Jan Gardner is one such estimable person who, having served with distinction in numerous roles at the Blount County Children's Home for nearly thirty-five years, took a much deserved retirement from her administrative duties on January 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS, a native of Maryville, Jan Gardner is a 1971 graduate of Everett High School and received her bachelor's degree in human services from the University of Tennessee in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gardner began her illustrious career at the Blount County Children's Home in 1975, serving with acumen and alacrity for a period of ten years as a social worker and residential staff member; and

WHEREAS, Jan Gardner further served as Program Director for Small Steps/Big Changes from 1985 to 2000 and was promoted to Assistant Director of the Blount County Children's Home in 1987; and

WHEREAS, known for her strong work ethic, professionalism, and compassion, Mrs. Gardner served as a Family Advocate from 2001 to 2004, and continued to serve with the utmost probity as Program Director for Gardner Place, a supervised visitation and peaceful exchange program, from 2004 until 2010; and

WHEREAS, during her estimable tenure at the Blount County Children's Home, Jan Gardner had a positive effect on the lives of 1,031 children in the residential program, and she

also touched the lives of 344 children and their families in her role as Program Director of Gardner Place; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gardner has been recognized with numerous awards of distinction for her dedication and service to others, including, most notably, the 1988 East Tennessee Foundation's Above and Beyond Award for outstanding contributions to children and at-risk youth; and

WHEREAS, her many personal and professional accomplishments aside, Jan Gardner is most appreciative of the love and companionship she shares with her husband of thirty years, Claude, and their three children, Jackie Hayward, Ronnie Gardner, and Halie Gardner; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gardner and her family are active and devout members of the Maryville Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, described by her colleagues at the Blount County Children's Home as a wonderful resource and a compassionate, loving human being, Jan Gardner's extraordinary dedication and consummate character will doubtless be evident in her new position at Sevier County Children's Services; and

WHEREAS, Jan Gardner exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Mrs. Gardner has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and clients alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Tanya Jan Gardner for her thirty-five years of meritorious service to the citizens of this State as a staff member of the Blount County Children's Home, salute her ongoing commitment to the highest precepts of public service, and wish her every continued success in her new position at Sevier County Children's Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.